

Resolution
of the City of Minneapolis
By Glidden

City Pledge to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Juveniles
and Establishing Minneapolis Coordinating Committee to Prevent Juvenile Sex
Trafficking

Whereas, the commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of youth and young adults is a significant issue throughout the United States with Minneapolis being no exception;

Whereas, a November 2010 study estimated that each month in Minnesota at least 213 girls are sold for sex an average of five times per day through the Internet and escort services (not including hotel, street or gang activity or statistics on boys);

Whereas, research shows that the average age of entry into prostitution/sex trafficking is 12 to 14 years old;

Whereas, over 50% of juvenile victims of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking victims are classified as runaway youth living on the street;

Whereas, the Goals and Strategic Directions adopted by the City of Minneapolis include focus on a safe place to call home and healthy lives, with teens who are "on course," "in school" and "connected" in a city where homelessness is eliminated;

Whereas, in 2011, Minnesota enacted the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Youth Act which legally recognized prostituted children as the victims of sexual exploitation and called for creation of a framework to develop services for sexually exploited youth through the child welfare system. In 2013, Minnesota enacted the No Wrong Door law, creating a model for providing services for youth victims of commercial sexual exploitation and providing funding for law enforcement training;

Whereas, on a national level, the prostituting and trafficking of youth is receiving increased attention with passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and the introduction of a national safe harbor law by members of the Minnesota federal delegation;

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis has already been a leader on this issue through the work of the Minneapolis Police Department and other departments;

Now, therefore, the City of Minneapolis, resolves as follows:

The City of Minneapolis pledges that Minneapolis will be a safe place to call home for all of its youth and further pledges:

- to prevent sexual exploitation and trafficking of youth and young adults;
- to rescue and connect youth victims with appropriate services;
- to pursue regulatory and legislative reform in support of this pledge; and
- to actively pursue and build criminal cases against individuals who engage in trafficking or otherwise solicit or sexually exploit youth and young adults;

Be it further resolved that there is established the Minneapolis Coordinating Committee to Prevent Juvenile Sex Trafficking to:

1. Coordinate and support the activities of various City departments in furthering the goals of this pledge;
2. Coordinate City efforts with and engage other governmental, non-profit and community partners; and
3. Develop Results Minneapolis measures to gauge the City's progress in realizing the goals of this pledge;

Be it further resolved that the membership of the Committee will include representatives from the Minneapolis Police Department, Health Department, CPED – Business Licensing, City-County Homeless Initiative, IGR, the City Attorney's Office, City Coordinator's Office and such other representatives as may be appropriate, with the Committee being co-chaired, at least initially, by the Deputy Chief of Police – Investigations and City Attorney; and

Be it further resolved that the Committee will provide progress reports to the City Council on an annual basis or more frequently as circumstances may warrant.